

6th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Shawn Rolland

*Serving Neighborhoods in Wauwatosa
and Milwaukee's Washington Heights*



**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**

Committee Assignments

American Rescue Plan Act Task Force,
Co-Chair

Committee on Health Equity, Human
Needs & Strategic Planning, Chair

Committee on Community,
Environment and Economic
Development

Finance Committee

Milwaukee Regional
Innovation Center Board

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fall 2022

Happy autumn! If we've never met, it's nice to meet you. My name is Shawn Rolland and I serve as your elected supervisor on the Milwaukee County Board. I've been humbled to serve our area for the past three years. And for the past 14.5 years, I've worked in public relations at Northwestern Mutual. I live on the east side of Tosa with my wife Liz, our two daughters, our two dogs Karl and Ruthie, two cats Max and Lily, and Betta fish Phineas ("fin" for short). Our oldest son just started at UWM and lives on campus. He's so tall!



I think Milwaukee County is a great place to live. In fact, nine of the top 20 communities statewide are here. **We're the economic engine:** our county's economic output is greater than 99 countries worldwide. Our GDP exceeds 49 other Wisconsin counties, COMBINED. We're the home of FORTUNE 500 companies and small businesses, one of the top research universities, major and minor league sports teams, and one of the best airports in America. **We also have world-class amenities:** our park system, zoo, museums and hospitals – and **we have one of the easiest commutes**, made even easier by our county's bus system.

Of course, there are major challenges, too. Inside, I'll share a few ways that we can work together to solve them. I'm committed to **strategic, evidence-based, socially-progressive and fiscally-responsible solutions** to help make our county the healthiest in Wisconsin.

Thank you for trusting me to serve you. Happy holidays to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Shawn Rolland
Milwaukee County Supervisor – District 6

Supporting Strategic, Evidence-Based, Progressive and Fiscally Responsible Proposals, and Opposing Everything Else

Milwaukee County has many strengths, as I mentioned on page one. But it also has many challenges – and our ability to overcome obstacles is severely limited by our county's budget. Twenty-two years ago, the Milwaukee County Board voted to create pension backdrop payments for retirees – a decision that's increasingly financially problematic. That vote is shifting tens



of millions in funding away annually from county services and capital improvement projects – and courts have ruled that there isn't anything that today's board can do to reverse it.

Making a tough situation worse, the state of Wisconsin has declined to provide a fair share of "shared revenue" to Wisconsin counties and cities, creating financial hardship everywhere. They've also prevented us from creating new revenue streams to cover expenses. Those decisions have led to painful cuts in parks staff, deferring maintenance, cuts to current employee compensation, and more.

That's why I'm adamant that our county board must do two things well. We must focus attention on **high-impact, evidence-based strategies that align to our strategic plan and deliver measurable outcomes**. And we should work to **build a positive relationship with the state legislature**. For me, that meant voting for strategic proposals to create more affordable housing, enhance public safety, fix up our parks and parkway roads, improve health and human services delivery, help prevent evictions, and more. And it meant voting against proposals that would harm our fiscal health, create service cuts, drive minimal impact and deepen the divide between Madison and our county.

I pledge to do the same in 2023.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. **Simply dial 2-1-1.** If you want detailed information please go to: www.impactinc.org/impact-211.

Join a Milwaukee County Parks "Friends" Group

Looking for a way to get outside, get active and get involved with your neighbors in something meaningful? Join a County Parks "friends" group! Many of the programs, events and projects in Milwaukee County parks are made possible through the efforts of park "friends" groups. These non-profit groups volunteer their time on a range of activities – from hosting summer concerts and fundraising to weeding and presenting educational programs. To learn more, visit County.Milwaukee.gov/Parks.



This spring, our family joined 3,000+ other volunteers for Milwaukee Riverkeeper's 27th Annual Spring Cleanup.

GOT ISSUES?



Let us know at
countyparksmke.com/issues
a new way to report issues in parks and trails

Get up-to-date information on FREE
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Delivering for Our District

I ran on a platform to make our neighborhoods and our county even better. To me, that means ensuring that our area receives its fair share of funding to fix our parks, roads and facilities. I'm proud to share that our 2023 budget prevents painful cuts to services while making investments in our area.

"Fix our roads!" Underwood Parkway repair is coming soon...

This road in Wauwatosa near the County Grounds, Wil-O-Way, and Hanson Golf Course is frequently used by cyclists, runners and motorists, but it's badly damaged – and repairs kept getting delayed year after year. Thanks to a budget amendment I authored, this project is in line to be designed in 2023 with repairs coming as soon as 2024. This is the number one issue I've heard from constituents – and it's on the top of my list, too.



Repairs to Underwood Parkway are coming soon!

"Keep us safe!" Center for Forensic Science coming soon...

Public safety is a top issue – and we're acting. The new Center for Forensic Science and Protective Medicine is coming soon to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center campus in Wauwatosa, thanks to outstanding collaboration between the county, the state and the Medical College of Wisconsin. The facility will house the state crime lab, the county's Office of the Medical Examiner and the county Office of Emergency Management.



This rendering shows the new Center for Forensic Science and Protective Medicine coming to Wauwatosa.

A Plan to Save Our County

In its 2023 Milwaukee County Budget Brief, the Wisconsin Policy Forum says, "The 2023 budget provides mostly good news for residents, as most services and service levels will remain intact, and some would see important expansions." We have been able to do more with less. However, WPF also predicts a "more precarious future."

By 2027, Milwaukee County will have no funding (zero dollars!!!) to fund its parks, transit, and housing.

If that happens, the impact to our quality of life, our business community, and our region and state will be traumatic. This is no political hyperbole. It's math.

Our county has cut \$340 million in expenditures over the past decade, but cuts alone cannot close the gap.

As I mentioned earlier, the state legislature is not providing our county (or any county) with its fair share of shared revenue funding. Even worse, inflation is making everything more expensive. The cost of staff salaries, energy, supplies, vehicles, and building equipment are rising much faster than the funding we're receiving from the state. Worst of all, they have prevented us from creating new revenue streams to cover our costs.

But, there is optimism for change in 2023.

A bipartisan and statewide group of business leaders, philanthropic leaders and elected officials are rallying together to ensure that counties can maintain services and amenities, increase public safety, lower property taxes, and ensure that businesses that can attract and keep talent.

The answer: new partnerships with state leaders.

Without additional revenue, Milwaukee County will be forced to make dramatic across-the-board service cuts, dramatically impacting our quality of life, our public safety and our area businesses. Thanks to our outreach, those painful cuts may be avoided. Members of the state legislature and Governor Tony Evers have indicated that they aim to increase shared revenue for counties. They've also indicated a willingness to consider allowing Milwaukee County to increase its sales tax in order to provide property tax relief, invest in public safety, maintain facilities, and invest in public amenities like parks, museums, the Milwaukee County Zoo and more to help attract the workforce of the future.

We need your help to move forward.

Visit MoveForwardMKE.com and share your support.



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Making Our Neighborhoods Even Better



Top left: I joined County Executive David Crowley, Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride and housing advocates at a Wauwatosa event to announce \$18 million in funding for affordable housing in the suburbs. **Top right:** County Executive David Crowley and I enjoyed the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Night Market this summer. **Lower left:** As car thefts increased, I passed out free “The Club” wheel locks to neighbors at parks and farmers markets. **Lower right:** I joined more than 80 Friends of County Grounds Park volunteers this fall to plant 140 new native trees near Sanctuary Woods.

